

THE FAMILY REUNION

A Vacation Fantasia By

CHARLES A. SELDEN Pictures by Albert Levering



the first of each year to arrange for the him if he had been troubled any with fine in our guest-room. This is Aunt It was Sunday, and Aunt Mary sugrough preliminary cast of the program made in January always included the family's summer diversion, and the seasickness on the way over. knew the funnel marks of every trans- in Polly's bank. before he was married. But she, too, Hopin was a Jones. the outing plans,

lar-development fad he picked out a home from time to time. track on the fourteenth deck, and he folders were put away for another right of the line there, got mad when those who have come from away first." her head negatively to everybody in branch of the family got away ahead and Mrs. Hopin spent one whole evening, surrounded by second - hand guide-books and Polly's primary-school geography, studying the plan of that vessel and wondering whether the elevators or the companionways would be safer in case of fire. Of course they always visited each new ship when the public was invited to inspect it at the end of the maiden east-bound voyage, and on these occasions the Hopins made tentative selections of the suites (no mere stateroom would do) that they would occupy in the following season.

The first-of-the-year plans were always based on the sum obtained by the simple arithmetical process of multiplying the number of weeks between January and June by the average number of dollars that John expected to earn each week, and subtracting from that product the product of the number of weeks times the minimum sum per week on which Mrs. Hopin figured they might live if they were willing to sacrifice a little for the sake of the educational broadening that a trip abroad would surely give them. This always worked out admirably, and the Hopins went to Europe on paper every year. Once, when they had a balance of twenty-seven dollars in the bank, after buying all the necessary Christmas presents, they went so far as to invite a poor but worthy cousin to go abroad with them in the weeks, but the income multiplier al- formation of the beaches. up the Hudson appealed to the Hopins any blunders at the reunion, very strongly, for they both loved the "It will be just as easy," she said that Europe had nothing like the English castles."

Mrs. John Hopin, not even the recoi- the couch.

Hopin's vacation plans had reached the York and letting her sit in Washing- Canute by his second wife Emma and period of the sixth reduction, Being a ton's pew in St. Paul's, something that ascended the throne. Aunt Betsy is the marginal notes that John had on cheerful young man, with a sanguine facher said, rather haughtily, when he notice it, for everybody likes her, and restricted on the second day of his vawife, it was Hopin's custom to begin go; back to work and a friend asked she's got a four-poster that will look to work and a friend asked she's got a four-poster that will look to work and a friend asked she's got a four-poster that will look to work and a friend asked she's got a four-poster that will look to work and a friend asked she's got a four-poster that will look to work and a friend asked she's got a four-poster that will look to work and a friend asked she's got a four-poster that will look to work and a friend asked she's got a four-poster that will look to work and a friend asked she's got a four-poster that will look to work and a friend asked she's got a four-poster that will look to work and a friend asked she's got a four-poster that will look to work and a friend asked she's got a four-poster that will look to work and a friend asked she's got a four-poster that will look to work and a friend asked she's got a four-poster that will look to work and a friend asked she's got a four-poster that will look to work and a friend asked she's got a four-poster that will look to work and the four-poster than the

made in January always included the January estimate had called for \$670, being together. Then Aunt Maria went a meaning look. Four of the sisters British Isles, the South of France, with and the June fact was \$83 which John out to Indiana to live with some related a slice of Germany and a little random had hoarded, plus three dollars and tives I don't know. You must'nt say and Mary, who had the advantage of cruising in the Mediterranean in the saved by cutting the milk down to a cause that might break up the retion, followed it up by remarking, casitinerary. It had been this way for pint a day in the desperate struggle union. Perhaps Aunt Maria won't ually, that she had spoken to one of ten years now, and the family had not of April to save Southern California. come at all. Oh, I forgot! Aunt Betsy, the ushers at the Episcopal church yet been abroad. But John Hopin Besides that, there was almost a dollar the deaf one, is a close-communion and asked him to reserve five whole

atlantic ship, and the first and second bright, and there was nothing to do And there's Aunt Julia. She lives in ed, Aunt Frances in a sort of a way cabin rates of every line. Once a year but to decide where to go within an Boston, and was a transcendentalist, she had. "As we were all brought up he told Mrs. Hopin that if he was sin- eighty-seven-dollar radius. Even that but in the last letter I got she was an in the Free Baptist church and went gle he would go steerage or work his difficulty was removed when Mrs. Ho- osteopathist. The rest of the family there together every Sabbath until passage on a cattle-ship, whereupon pin received notice of the Jones family think she is queer. And here is Aunt some of us got high-toned and had she always gently reminded him that reunion and old-home week that was Mary. She married a doctor, and when highfalutin' notions, I think we'd all he had been single twenty-five years to be held up in New Hampshire, Mrs. he sent in a bill after Cousin Nell's better go there today, being as this is

shared the enthusiasm for the trip The fare up and back would be only got mad with Mary, and it kind of John took one quick glance at the June. She knew, from personal inspec- wasn't at all likely. So they bought row, under the aunts, and that's the for constant reference. tion tours to the various plers, all the clothes with the balance to buoy up baby that caused the trouble, in the, "Nothing can keep me from going to easy every minute because she couldn't and he read it before all the awe-in-

>**\$** As it was the middle of June, John points of historical interest in New because Hardicanute was the son of teens Maria. She and the next one, Aunt gested that the twenty-four Joneses n Polly's bank. Baptist. Aunt Frances is a Free pews on the broad aisle.

So the prospects were particularly Baptist, Aunt Maria is a Methodist. "Oh, did you," said, rather than askbaby was born, Nell and her husband a reunion."

thing about each one."



So John took a lesson in aunts.

following sammer. But in March they year, and John started in to read the Hardicanute called Aunt Maria a deaf reunion. Let us all go barefooted into shouted, "Everybody look pleasant" had to rescind the invitation because colonial history of the New Hampshire old osteopathist at Aunt Mary's wedof unforeseen changes in John's busi- and Vermont boundary dispute as a ding to father's oldest-" ness affairs that would keep him very preliminary to the trip. That was his "Now stop, John, or I won't go on rub the dew on our foreheads." busy. As a rule, however, the first way. He couldn't take Polly to Coney any vacation at all this year. This is Uncle Joseph tapped his forehead. "Can't we go home now and have the modification of the plans would have to Island for a ride on the merry-go- the first reunion the Jones family has significantly, and Uncle William nodded group sent by mail?" he asked. come in February. The calendar did round without first sending to the ever had, and you ought to be nice assent. its part with the multiplicand of State Geologist for a report on the about it."

from the estimates, and then the Ho- humored him in the boundary dispute draw up a family tree to study on the wife that he had simply got to go out bruises before then. But come on, let's pins would serenely decide that Amer- for one whole evening, and then defirst, anyway, and decide to go to the rest of the time, before their de- outing?" Southern California. March had a way parture, in brushing up on the Jones of suggesting Washington or Niagara family connections and studying the Falls, and when things began to get pictures of aunts, cousins, and remoter green in April the delights of a trip relatives, so that they wouldn't make

beautiful in nature, so they told each when he demurred, "as learning the other every spring, and then one or the names of all the kings of England and other would mention the fact that some of their wives, which you insisted on eminent foreigner, visiting this coun- our doing two years ago, because you try, had said that the Hudson was said it would enable us to get so much more beautiful than the Rhine, and more enjoyment out of visiting the old

So John took a lesson in aunts, whose Nothing ever discouraged Mr. or pictures Mrs. Hopin had spread out on

Mrs. John Hopm, not even the the did atthe chamber dressed to him, was received at the lection of that summer that had caught There's Aunt Betsy, to begin with," to the Astor Library to consult a book to get her extension bag and reticule. Jones homestead and opened by Mrs. them with only a few car fares in the she said. "She's father's oldest on genealogies, hurriedly copied sev- without waiting to hear whether Ellen Hopin,

leans should see their own country clared that they would have to spend uncle tips that I ought to have for this arm and told him that he had simply quiet rest. We've got ten days left, our

call him Judge, anyway, and you must, been said. It wasn't tangible enough and have all our friends meet us at the He'll probably sit at the head of the to make any impression on a real old pier." He'll probably sit at the head of the to make any importable part of the time, and Uncle William the rest of the time, because he Frances. has got one of the biggest stores in that married Aunt Mary. That's all I'll tell you ton ght."

"Do you think we will have a good

family purse. That was the vacation brother's second wife. Now don't look eral very neat designs in family trees, had accommodations for her. they had spent showing Polly the bored like that. You got real excited caught his wife and daughter at the "What did Maria say?" asked Aunt is breaking." When he came across the ********************************* gun. It was a successful trip. The conductor did not collect for Polly. The family tree branches were all properly labeled by Mrs. Hopin before the train reached New Haven, and when they arrived at Boston John could say over the whole Jones family, down to second cousins' husbands, with his eyes shut. Between Boston and the old home town he passed a creditable examination on the family quarrels and denominational leanings, had time for a smoke, and managed to give Polly a little improving instruction on the boundary dispute, so that she could talk intelligently with Uncle James, the

Aunt Maria did come on from Indiana, and the first thing she did after climbing out of the surrey was to fall on Aunt Frances' neck and kiss her for two minutes.

John Hopin looked at his notes surreptitiously and then whispered to his wife that she had got things mixed on Maria and Frances, but he was simply told to behave and wait.

Uncle William of Worcester remarked to Aunt Betsy that that wouldn't last long, and said semething about cats and dogs before night. "Yes, I can see the family look, but

she favors her mother some," replied

Aunt Betsy, who hadn't heard a word,

family. At tea-time Uncle William insisted that Uncle James should sit at the head of the table, but the Judge wouldn't hear of any such arrangement, and declared that those who had come from a distance should have the honors. After supper, sisters Maria

third generation.

and Frances sat together on the haircloth sofa, planning to sleep together again in the old room up attic they used to have when they were girls.

There was so much harmony that first day that Hopin felt that he could throw away his memoranda on frictions and cut loose in one big happy

"You can have the outside, Frances," said Maria.

"Either side will suit me, Maria," said Frances. And John Hopin nudged his wife, and nobody would have been surprised, after hearing that fragment of sofa dialogue, if Dr. Joseph had spoken good-naturedly to Cousin Nell's child, who had almost reached his

But the accuracy of the data and of every American child should do, her deaf, but you must pretend not to the family-tree sheet began to be cor-

abroad, and was sure, every January, twenty-seven dollars, even if the con- spread all through the family tree and shoved it back into his that it was coming in the following ductor did collect for the child, which Nell, the third one in the cousins pocket as something no longer needed

boats that had playrooms for the chil- the reputation that John had with his second-cousins row. You must try to my own church," replied Aunt Mary, take part. dren, for there was a young Hopin, wife's relatives of having lots of remember just these few main facts. rather icily, "and I am sure that the "She said," shouted Frances, "that a good stage sigh of relief when Uncle Polly, aged nine, to be considered in means, partly because he worked in Aunt Mary is an Episcopalian, and is members of the family who have come all varieties of Baptists travel on the William assured him that there would New York, and partly because of the very touchy about it. Now see if you to the gathering from Boston and Wor- Sabbath, and that we were brought up be a train in an hour which would The year that John had the muscu- enthusiastic letters Mrs. Hopin wrote can point them out and tell me some- cester and New York, and enjoy good in the Methodist church when we were catch a New York express out of Bosmusic would much prefer the Episcopal girls." ship with a gymnasium and running. So the guide-books and steamship "All right. Aunt Betsy, who has the church. I think we ought to consider "No such thing," said Betsy, shaking had packed, and so the New York

just as Tar away as Boston, or Worces- if her husband hadn't bedivelled her." board the Cedric at Quarantine. ter or New York, and I'm your own Then Aunt Betsy began to rock and sister, too. And as for you, Frances shake her head affirmatively. Jones, you know we never went to the "You're as unlikely as Maria," shout- the Hopins were in the crowd of voy-Free Baptist when we were growing ed Mary. "And I knew just how it would be, was gliding among the trees. "Didn't I say so to you, James?"

peace, handed down a judicial decree of example. "Tut, tut!" which acted as a temporary Everybody was reunited the next do-it to put the finishing touch on a stay of proceedings, and Aunt Julia, of morning, long enough to have the local most delightful illusion. There's only Boston, took a turn. Smiling sweetly, photographer take a family group, with a few days left of my vacation anyand waving her hands in slow rhythm Frances and Maria standing together in way; I'm going to work tomorrow, so at her three sisters, as if giving them middle, with their arms around each I can draw ahead a little on next week's some form of occult treatment, she other's waists. said, just like a teacher in elocution: But that was simply because the

John Hopin sketched in a little prim- ing the reunion if we go so soon. It's "I was only fooling. I remember ate swinging from the Boston branch to last a week," said Mrs. Hopin, was only fooling. I remember ate swinging from the Boston blanch to make a swinging from the Boston blanch to make got to wait till he reached New York. tickets back, and seven dollars and that

"I knew it would be so," reiterated from abroad when we haven't been

"Ellen, have you got room for me to "That's the scheme. I thought it out Worcester. Uncle Joseph is the doctor sleep at your house tonight?" asked on the way up here." Aunt Maria, addressing a niece. "I "If we could only get a telegram or shall go home tomorrow. I would go something telling us to hurry right home today if it wasn't the Sabbath. back." Methodists never travel on the Sabbath. "That's easy," replied John, and he 'Well, it won't be Southern France, no matter what Free Baptists may do." slipped away to the next village. Then Aunt Maria flounced out of the Before he got back a telegram, ad-The next morning John Hopin went room and up to the old attic chamber dressed to him, was received at the

music, I don't know what music is."

"Music!" sniffed Aunt Maria. "If you call that la-la-de-la business

THERE'S NEW VIGOR AND STRENGTH IN EVERY DROP.

"Music!" sniffed Aunt Maria. "If you the room. "We were close-communion of Aunt Maria. call that la-la-de-da business music, I always, Frances, till you got mad about As soon as they got home, John got don't know what music is. We want their choir and went over to the Free. a friend who knew a man in the Cussomething we all know, and that's I don't know anything about Maria tom House to get a pass for threehymns, good old Methodist hymns, and since she went out West. Mary would John Hopin, wife, and child-to go I'd like to know, Mary, if Indiana isn't never have gone over to the Episcopals down the bay in a revenue cutter and

up till after that row in the Methodist, "What did you say, Mary?" asked nale deck, frantically waving their when Ann G. Brown said some folks sister Betsy, who never would hear an- handkerchiefs at delighted friends who could eat a great deal more at a dona- swers to her own arguments. And sis- were waiting at the pier. tion-party than they ever donated. You ter Mary gave it up and went off to The ship's band was playing "Home, know just as well as you're sitting on occupy the five pews on the broad aisle. Sweet Home," and the Hopins were so that sofa that we never went inside the Sister Maria had already gone through excited that they felt it was all real, Free Baptist till after that, and you're the hall, slamming the front door, and and that the thing they had been longtrying to spoil everything, just as you was on her way to the Methodist ing for for ten years had really hapalways did. I says to myself it would church. The Free and the close-com- pened. And the last minute, before be so before I left Indiana, but I came munion sisters also went their several rushing down the gangplank into the on so's we could be all together once ways. And Aunt Julia, with her back arms of their friends, John Hopin shovmore, and to keep peace in the family," hair down and shoes and stockings off, ed what was left of that seven dollars

Maria Jones, the minute you wrote you The Judge allowed that, as there ard, were coming." replied sister Frances, wasn't to be a reunion service, he "Why did you do it, John?" exclaimed wouldn't go to church at all, and Uncle Mrs. Hopin, after they got home, "It But brother James, the justice of the William and Uncle Joseph followed his was the last cent we had."

"Nature was the first temple. Let camera man posed them that way for

Joneses repair to it now for their real artistic effect. When the photographer, grass, and take long, deep breaths and caught with his mouth open and spoiled the picture.

i "Why, they'll think we're not enjoy-

"Uncle James is a judge or a justice Julia's remark was ignored by her family tree. Besides, I've got a great of the peace or something. They all sisters as something that had never scheme. We'll come home from abroad

! "How are we going to come home abroad, John Hopin?"

de, Jones homestead and opened by Mrs. en Hopin.

It read, "Come back at once; market

train, and the vacation journey was be- Betsy, who had been getting more un- lawn she met him with the telegram,

spired and impressed Joneses. He gave ton. In the mean time, Mrs. Hopin

So they went down the bay, and when the great Cedric warped into her pier

agers standing at the rail on the prome-

into the hands of a grateful deck stew-

"Well, I know it, but I just had to

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She met him with the telegram, and he read it before all the awe-inspired

and impressed Joneses.